

## INTRODUCTION

In this section a proposed future direction for Isle Royale National Park (the proposed action) is described along with four alternatives (including one that would not substantially change existing conditions).

Before the proposal and alternatives were developed, information on park resources, visitor use, and visitor preferences was gathered and analyzed. Information was solicited about the issues and the scope of the project from the public, government agencies, and special interest groups through newsletters, meetings, and personal contacts, which helped with the development of five preliminary concepts for the park's future. All the concepts were intended to support the park's purpose and significance, address issues, avoid unacceptable resource impacts, and respond to public desires and concerns. (More information about the analysis is presented in Appendix A.)

Five draft alternatives were developed from the preliminary concepts. Following public review of the alternatives, an evaluation process called "Choosing By Advantages" was used to evaluate and compare the alternatives and to develop a preliminary preferred alternative. A summary of this analysis is also presented in Appendix A. The preliminary preferred alternative was then

shared with the public. The draft proposed action, resulting from public review and adjustment of the preliminary preferred alternative, was presented to the public in a *Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement*.

Alternative A (existing conditions) is presented first. Next are actions that are common to the proposal and alternatives B–E. Descriptions of the proposed action and the alternatives follow. Then, the proposal and alternatives are summarized in three tables: the first compares the proposal and each alternative; the second lists each campground and shows the means of access under the proposal and each alternative; the third summarizes the expected impacts of each action.

Potential environmental impacts of the proposed action and alternatives are presented in the subsequent environmental consequences section.

While a general management plan provides the analysis and justification for future funding, the plan in no way guarantees that the money will be forthcoming. The plan will establish a vision of the future that will guide year-to-year management of the park, but full implementation of a plan could take a number of years.